

## REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 17-42 were pending

Claims 1, 16-29 and 32 are cancelled.

Claims 2, 30, 35 and 42 are amended.

Claims 2 and 30-31, and 33-42 are pending.

### **35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.**

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of including alkali metals or magnesium in combination with lithium or mixtures as catalyst, part of claim 39 and sulfides in the elected grouping based on the search results.

Claims 2, 30-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. As suggested by the Examiner, Applicants have amended claim 2 to remove the term "radicals" and to replace the phrase "where appropriate in the presence of a catalyst" to with or without a catalyst. The Applicants have also amended claim 2 to included the appropriate definitions from cancelled claim 1. Claims 30, 35 and 42 have been amended to remove non elected subject matter from the claims as suggest by the Examiner. No new matter has been added.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2, 30-31 and 33-42 is respectfully solicited in light of the remarks *supra*.

Since there are no other grounds of objection or rejection, passage of this application to issue with claims 2, 30-31 and 33-42 is earnestly solicited.

In the event that minor amendments will further prosecution, Applicants request that the examiner contact the undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tyler Stevenson', with a stylized, flowing script.

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